

Governor's Council on Women and Girls  
Full Council Meeting  
March 9, 2021 @ 3pm  
Virtual Meeting

**Minutes**

- I. Greetings and Opening Remarks
  - a. Lt. Governor offers opening remarks acknowledging yesterday as International Women's Day; Charlene Russell-Tucker as Acting State Education Commissioner; Miguel Cardona as the national Education Secretary; and State Rep. Kimberly Fiorello as new member of the Council on behalf of the House Republican Caucus
- II. Report from Council Leadership
  - a. Lt. Governor notes that she and Governor Lamont held a press conference, with legislative leaders, on Tuesday March 2, about the Council's legislative agenda and that she has submitted supportive testimony on behalf of the Council in three Governor's bills and two committee bills that the Council is endorsing.
  - b. Lt. Governor introduces Council Vice Chair and OPM Sec. Melissa McCaw; Sec. McCaw notes:
    - i. 8 Council bills; 4 are Governor's bills. Most bills have had a public hearing; An Act Concerning Recommendations of the Governor's Council on Women and Girls is still in GAE and has not yet had a hearing.
    - ii. SB 56 An Act Deterring Age Discrimination was successfully voted out of the Aging Committee and was sent to Senate floor
    - iii. Each of Domestic Workers and Incubator Pilot legislative matters have been taken up in different, more expansive, forms and we continue to monitor them
      1. Domestic Workers is reflected in SB 943
      2. Incubator Pilot is reflected in HB 6558, Sec. 1
- III. Subcommittee Updates
  - a. Lt. Governor introduces Department of Housing Deputy Commissioner Shante Hanks, on behalf of Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity & Workforce Equity, for an update on the Housing and Community Development Leadership Institute; Dep. Comm. Hanks reports:
    - i. Shares screen for new HCDLI website
    - ii. The first cohort has 23 participants – 18 women and 5 men
    - iii. Orientation started last week and classes start next week
    - iv. Members come from different areas of CT including, but not limited to, Bridgeport; Trumbull; Hartford; New Haven; Windsor; Granby; and Willimantic and represent a diverse set of subject matter interests and career experience
    - v. There is a waiting list for next cohort, which will be this summer, and there are organizations that want to partner in these efforts.

- b. Lt. Governor introduces Office of Higher Education Exec. Dir. Tim Larson for an update from Education & STEAM Subcommittee; Director Larson reports:
  - i. *(See presentation in Attachment 1 re background of Subcommittee and status of Subcommittee work.)*
  - ii. Lt. Governor asks about status of computing challenge submissions so far and Dir. Larson notes that he will check in and get back to her.
- c. Lt. Governor introduces Tri-Chair DCF Commissioner Vanessa Dorantes for an update from Health & Safety Subcommittee; Comm. Dorantes reports:
  - i. *(See presentation in Attachment 2 re updates from February Subcommittee meeting.)*
  - ii. Lt. Governor asks if, and Commissioner Dorantes confirms that, January is Human Trafficking Awareness month; Lt. Governor proposes that we note this for January 2022 Council activity.
- d. Further from Health & Safety, Tri-Chair Commissioner Delphin-Rittmon reports:
  - i. PROUD offers an opportunity to provide opioid related services and supports to pregnant and parenting women and their families and focuses on developing family plans to connect women and their kids with wrap around services and supports. More information on website.
- e. Lt. Governor introduces Sec. McCaw for an update from the Subcommittee on Leadership; Sec. McCaw reports:
  - i. Next Meeting is April 21<sup>st</sup> at 3pm
  - ii. Save the dates for Women’s History Month panel series:
    - 1. Women Leading Through Covid on Thursday March 25<sup>th</sup> at 3pm: Confirmed guests include Kimberlee Richard, nursing executive and operations leader; and Kayla Bennett who is leading Covid vaccine clinics in Hartford
    - 2. Women in the Media on either March 26<sup>th</sup> or March 29<sup>th</sup>: Confirmed guests include Aya Galal from WFSB and Alicia Warshavsky from News 12
- f. Sec. McCaw introduces tri-chair Christine Shaw from the Treasurer’s Office; Ms. Shaw continues report from Leadership with status of four work groups:
  - i. Diversity on State Boards and Commissions
    - 1. Currently working to identify new sources to find candidates to serve and planning to reach out to different community groups; recommendations for who to reach out to are welcome
  - ii. Women in Leadership
    - 1. Notes that there were two February Black History Month Panel discussions: 2/19, featuring black women in CT Government, and 2/26 entitled Black Women in CT Communities: Taking the Lead to Move us Forward.
  - iii. Employee Development & Training Opportunities / Cultural Competency
    - 1. RFP has been posted for a vendor to design and implement diversity, equity, and inclusion workshops and training

- opportunities. DAS procurement team is handling inquires and receiving proposals; formal selection process scheduled for spring
2. Identified, and DAS is implementing, Linked-In as a learning platform for workplace training including courses, videos and learning paths that can support the professional development of women and the State workforce. Project includes the licensing of over 30,000 executive branch employees and includes an opportunity to integrate the State's mandatory training.
  - iv. Affirmative Action Reports, Hiring Goals and Recruitment Strategies
    1. OPM data and analytics team is helping to address the data used to calculate hiring goals and they have identified American Community Surveys (ACS) data source which is updated every five years and can allow the state to keep up with diversity of the state – working on implementing this data source
    2. Planning to evaluate the final recommendations of the Boston Consulting Group which is assisting with the anticipated 2022 retirement wave and endeavoring to do so together with the recommendations of the 2019 Comptroller's Office Workforce Equity Reports so that agencies can be proactive and mindful of opportunities for diversity in state workforce moving forward

#### IV. Announcements

- a. Lt. Governor acknowledges Rep. Borer; Rep. Borer announces:
  - i. Notes that in addition to being on the Council she Co-Chairs Women's Legislative Bi-Partisan Caucus; thanks the Council for legislation agenda.
  - ii. Caucus adjusted their work in 2020 by creating subcommittees to support those suffering in their communities: Education; Commerce; Women and Children; and Nursing Home
  - iii. In 2021 that caucus has been hosting a speaker series live on CT-N and providing resources and education about state and federal programs
  - iv. For a Caucus legislative agenda, each committee is making proposals to the caucus as a whole; caucus will finalize a list (Council items will be on it) to send to the Speaker of the House and will publicize the list.
  - v. She further notes that Council legislators are a great resource for the Council and can make sure information gets out to other legislators and communities; they are here to partner with the Council.
- b. Lt. Governor congratulates Rep. Borer for being named chair of Bonding Subcommittee
- c. Lt. Governor announces April Subcommittee meeting schedule:
  - i. Economic Opportunity & Workforce Equity - April 14<sup>th</sup> at 3pm
  - ii. Education & STEAM - April 7<sup>th</sup> at 1pm
  - iii. Health and Safety - April 5<sup>th</sup> at 10am
  - iv. Leadership - April 21<sup>st</sup> at 3pm
- d. Lt. Governor announces that the next full council meeting is May 11<sup>th</sup> at 3pm.

- e. N. Kidney offers CareerCONN2021, being planned for March 31, link in chat function: <https://careerconn.org/>

V. Lt. Governor adjourns at apx 3:51pm.

## Attendance Report

Lt. Governor Susan Bysiewicz	Chair
OPM Sec. Melissa McCaw	Vice Chair
Christine Shaw	Office of the State Treasurer
Vannessa Dorantes	Department of Children and Families
Tim Larson	Office of Higher Education
Miriam Delphin-Rittmon	Dept. of Mental Health & Addiction Services
Shanté Hanks	Department of Housing
Rep. Dorinda Borer	House Democratic Caucus
Clare Kindall	Office of Attorney General
Glendowlyn Thames	Department of Economic & Community Development
Kim Martone	Office of Health Strategy
Andrew Mais	Insurance Department
Deidre Gifford	Department of Public Health
Deidre Gifford / Astread Ferron-Poole	Department of Social Services
Bob Ross	Office of Military Affairs
Thomas Saadi / Jane Siegel	Dept. of Veteran Affairs
Michelle Seagull	Dept. of Consumer Protection
Jordan Scheff	Dept. of Developmental Services
Jorge Perez	Dept. of Banking
Angel Quiros	Department of Correction
Elizabeth McDermott	Office of the State Comptroller
Janice Floyd	Department of Motor Vehicles
Nicholas Hermes	Dept. of Administrative Services
Eric Smith	Dept. of Transportation
Brian Foley	Dept. Of Emergency Services & Public Protection